



Board Bulletin

June 5, 2015

Utility Projects Update

Below please find information regarding multiple water and sewer projects the County is working to obtain grant/loan funding or initiate construction:

1. **Greater Badin Water System Rehabilitation**

Funding for the project has been secured from USDA and NC DENR. Phase 1 (West Badin) began earlier this week and is scheduled to be complete in February 2016. Phase 2 (East Badin) had to be re-designed to conform to NC DOT standards. It is anticipated this phase of the project will be bid in late June/early July 2015.

2. **US Army Corps of Engineers Water Line Project**

As of June 5, 2015, County staff has submitted the formal request for additional federal funding in FY 15-16. Once federal funding is approved, the County will have to secure a loan to meet the 25% local match requirement (\$2.25 million). Due to the amount of this loan, water rate increases will need to be contemplated over the next couple fiscal years to service the debt.

3. **Airport Area Sewer Improvements**

The County secured a \$500,000 grant from NC Commerce and additional zero interest loan funding from NC DENR to complete the \$1 million project. The project is in the final phase of design, and it is anticipated the project will be bid in the fall of 2015.

4. **Palestine Pump Station**

The Palestine pump station needs to be replaced and/or upgraded. The Utilities staff will seek grant funding via the NC DENR Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in the fall 2015.

5. **Hook Up Grant**

The Utilities staff will be submitting a CDBG grant to NC Commerce in the fall of 2015 in order to provide water service connections to 100 low to moderate income residents. The grant funds will target residents served by the recent Mission Area water project. Additional grant funds will be applied across the entire system to qualifying homeowners.

Property Tax Collections Update

As of May 31 the real property tax collection rate was 96.11%. This rate is 0.52 percentage points higher than the reported rate at the end of May 2014.

The motor vehicle tax collection rate continues to average over 99% as a result of the new "tax and tag together" program.

As of May 31, the Tax Collections staff had 497 past due collections efforts in place. This is a 24.2% increase over the same time period last fiscal year.

The In-Rem foreclosure initiative also continues to demonstrate favorable results. To date, the County has collected \$125,309 in past due tax revenue. The net revenue after legal expenses is approximately \$120,500. Thus, the return on the County's investment has been substantial.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Recessed Board Meeting	Thursday, June 11 9:00 AM Manager's Conf Room
EDC Board Meeting	Tuesday, June 16 7:30 AM Manager's Conf Room